

## **Letter to Parents regarding Religious Education**

Dear Parents, Grandparents, and Guardians,

God tells us in 1 Thessalonians 1:2-4: *We give thanks to God always for all of you, remembering you in our prayers, unceasingly calling to mind your work of faith and labor of love and endurance in hope of our Lord Jesus Christ, before our God and Father, knowing, brothers loved by God, how you were chosen.*

As volunteer teachers, we give thanks to God for you for teaching the faith to your children. We are praying for you to grow in your faith, hope, and love for God. We realize that God desires all to have a deep friendship with Him.

Here is some initial information regarding the 2017-18 Religious Education (RE) year.

### **Class locations, dates, and times:**

Our Lady of the Snow (OLS): Thursdays, 6:30 - 7:45 p.m. St. Peter (StP): Sundays, 8:45 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

**First class date:** Thursday, August 31 (OLS). Sunday, September 10 (StP). St. Peter will have a new start time for class: 8:45 a.m. Parents, meet your teachers and feel free to sit in on all classes. Your teachers will give you class schedule for the year.

**Cost:** The cost is \$20. *Please contact the office 970.887.0032 if you have trouble paying.*

-The RE schedule for OLS will be posted on [www.GrandCatholic.com](http://www.GrandCatholic.com) soon.

- Please spread the word to others and have them call the office; 970.887.0032. *You are the best way we have to reach others who we may not see regularly.*

- We will be using the *New St. Joseph Baltimore Catechism* textbooks.

**In all things, parents, you are the primary educators of your children.** In the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, excerpts from paragraphs 2221-2226 we see what God expects in families and parents:

“The role of parents in education is of such importance that it is almost impossible to provide an adequate substitute” [2221]. “Parents must regard their children as children of God...they educate their children to fulfill God’s law” [2222]. Parents should teach their children to put spiritual needs ahead of material needs [2223]. The home is the natural environment to teach children to be holy members of a community (Church and society), in order to help others and to be in solidarity with them. Rugged individualism is against God’s teaching [2224].

“Through the grace of the sacrament of marriage, parents receive the responsibility and privilege of evangelizing their children. Parents should initiate their children at an early age into the mysteries of

faith of which they are the ‘first heralds’ of their children” [2225]. “Family catechesis precedes, accompanies, and enriches other forms of instruction in the faith. Parents have the mission of teaching their children to pray and to discover their vocation [to become a priest, sister, married, single] as children of God” [2226].

With this truth being stated, we are asking you—using the courage, freedom, and responsibility that God gave you—to take charge of the spiritual development of your children. Teach them at home and help them with their homework (and any missed class work). We will assist you by teaching them at our churches. Just as you help them with their regular schoolwork, you will be teaching your children grade-school level material about God and His Church. *You do not have to be an expert; you just have to love your children.* By practicing your faith, going to Mass every weekend and cultivating a daily prayer life, you set an example for your children. You send an authentic message to your children. Your example will root their faith in their entire being. (Mere heart or head knowledge is not enough). By setting this example, you will teach your children to become saints! This is the goal for each of us! Remember, in Matthew 19:14, Jesus said, “*Let the children come to me.*” When you go to the Lord, your children will learn to go to Him too!

We will gladly give you a Rosary DVD to use as a tool to teach your children how to pray the Rosary. Just ask for one from Valerie or Fr. Michael.

This year as we continue to lower Confirmation age, now at 4<sup>th</sup> grade, we are requiring at least one parent to attend classes taught by Fr. Peter that are at the exact same time the child is in RE class. This is to maintain continuity for the child’s learning of religious education and the good of the family. Classes, if missed, must be made up. If you have questions, please contact Fr. Peter at 970.364.0170 or [father.wojda@archden.org](mailto:father.wojda@archden.org).

Practically, we all set an example living the virtue of the “golden rule”—treat others how you want to be treated. Please have your children arrive on time, or call their individual teachers if they will be late or miss class. For safety reasons, please escort your children to the inside of the church do not simply drop them off. We would appreciate your presence, and volunteers to sit in on your children’s classes and assist the teachers.

Sincerely,

*Fr. Michael Fr. Peter Valerie Steineck  
JoAnna Givens Teachers*

## **Keeping Yourself and Your Home Catholic**

Jesus, teaching through our Church, has always taught that temptations come from the world, the flesh, and the devil. Jesus respects your free will. Do you want to follow Him? In order to remain a strong follower of Jesus Christ, it is critical that you let God nourish you and let the saints intercede for you. Consider the following things in order to grow in your faith and love.

- Read Sacred Scripture daily. Really focus and reflect on readings from the four Gospels—what Jesus says.
- In addition to going to Mass for your Sunday obligation, make time to go to daily Mass. We believe that Jesus is in the Eucharist; we should want to come to Him and receive Him as much as possible before we die.
- Let Jesus cleanse you frequently in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. What excuse do you have for not going six to twelve times a year? Fear? “My parents did not go”? “I don’t believe in it”? Jesus wants you to go.
- Be sure that your home is loaded up with blessed crucifixes, pictures of Jesus and Mary and the saints, and a holy water font.
- Have your home blessed by a priest or deacon.
- Ask your Guardian Angel to help you each day, and ask for St. Michael’s protection.
- Pray the Rosary and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy every day. Mary will crush the head of Satan.

## **St. Faustina’s Experience of Hell**

*Diary, 741.* Today, I was led by an Angel to the chasms of hell. It is a place of great torture; how awesomely large and extensive it is! The kinds of tortures I saw: the first torture that constitutes hell is the loss of God; the second is perpetual remorse of conscience; the third is that one’s condition will never change; the fourth is the fire that will penetrate the soul without destroying it—a terrible suffering, since it is a purely spiritual fire, lit by God’s anger; the fifth torture is continual darkness and a terrible suffocating smell, and, despite the darkness, the devils and the souls of the damned see each other and all the evil, both of others and their own; the sixth torture is the constant company of Satan; the seventh torture is horrible despair, hatred of God, vile words, curses and blasphemies. These are the tortures suffered by all the damned together, but that is not the end of the sufferings.

There are special tortures destined for particular souls. These are the torments of the senses. Each soul undergoes terrible and indescribable sufferings, related to the manner in which it has sinned... Let the sinner know that he will be tortured throughout all eternity, in those senses which he made use of to sin. I am writing this at the command of God, so that no soul may find an excuse by saying there is no hell... The devils were full of hatred for me, but they had to obey me at the command of God. What I have written is but a pale shadow of the things I saw. But I noticed one thing: that most of the souls there are those who disbelieved that there was a hell... Consequently, I pray even more fervently for the

conversion of sinners. I incessantly plead God’s mercy upon them. O my Jesus, I would rather be in agony until the end of the world, amidst the greatest sufferings, than offend You by the least sin.

## **Prayer to the Holy Spirit** (by St. Augustine)

Breathe into me, Holy Spirit,  
that my thoughts may all be holy.

Move in me, Holy Spirit,  
that my work, too, may be holy.

Attract my heart, Holy Spirit,  
that I may love only what is holy.

Strengthen me, Holy Spirit,  
that I may defend all that is holy.

Protect me, Holy Spirit,  
that I may always be holy. Amen.

## **A Memorare to the Angels (Ask Your Angel for Help)**

Remember, O holy Angels! that Jesus, the Eternal Truth, assures us that you “rejoice more at the conversion of one sinner, than at the perseverance of many just.” Encouraged thereby, I, the most unworthy of creatures, humbly entreat you to receive me as your servant, and make me unto you a cause of true joy. Do not, O blessed Spirit, reject my petition; but graciously hear and grant it. Amen.

## **Quick Apologetics (Defending Your Faith)—Call No Man Father**

One time when I was working at Lackland Air Force Base as a chaplain candidate, a good man asked me, “Why do you call your priests ‘father’? The Bible says not to call any man ‘father’ in Matthew 23:9.”

Matthew 23:9 does state: “Call no one on earth your father; you have but one Father in heaven.”

I told him that if we took everything literally in the Bible that I would be a blind paraplegic. He smiled. He knew what I was saying. In Matthew 5:27-30, Jesus basically says that if our eyes cause us to sin, we should pluck them out, and if our hands cause us to sin, we should cut them off. We know that Jesus is, in this passage, trying to get us to think about avoiding sin, not to maim our bodies.

Anyway, I explained to him that we needed to look at the whole Bible in context. Even God the Father called human men fathers in the fourth commandment: “Honor your father and mother.” Also, in Romans 4:16-17, St. Paul refers to Abraham as “the father of us all.” In 1 Corinthians 4:15, St. Paul says, “You do not have many fathers, for I became your father in Christ Jesus through the Gospel.”

So there are many times in the Bible where ‘father’ is permitted. Priests are called ‘father’ in the sense that they are called to be spiritual fathers to everyone they meet. Priests ask God the Father to participate in His Fatherhood. God is the origin and source of all fatherhood. He is perfect in love and mercy. All of us pray to the Father to be more like Him.

### **Rockies Tickets for Altar Servers and Their Families on Sunday, September 3**

We have Rockies tickets for the afternoon game (1:10 p.m.) at Coors Field on Sunday, September 3. Call the office and ask Angela for the tickets.

### **Fr. Peter Eclipse Party at St. Anne in Grand Lake**

Monday, August 21. A near-total solar eclipse! Mass at 8:30 a.m., Holy Hour 9-10 a.m., picnic and eclipse watching from 10 a.m. till 1 p.m. The sun will be more than 93% covered by the moon at 11:45 a.m.

Sun-viewing glasses and other ways to safely watch the eclipse will be provided. Bring your family and something to throw on the grill!

### **Healing After An Abortion; Need Help for the Retreat**

The next Rachel's Vineyard Retreat is **October 6-8** in Denver, and we are in need of your assistance.

**Food Donations** When you attended your retreat do you remember how comforting the food was after such heavy emotions were brought up in the room? Please consider what you can do to provide the physical nourishment for the emotional journey that will take place. If your feeling called to give back in some way...this is a great way to do so!

The M&M Team (Martha & Mary) is starting to get organized for the weekend and we are requesting food donations. Some ideas to consider: fruit, cheese, crackers, muffins, cookies, cake, salad, sandwiches, soup, meal items, etc. **Please call, text, or e-mail Shannon to let her know what you can donate at 303.884-9248 or shantan2003@yahoo.com**

**Friday Night Greeters** Remember how nervous you felt arriving on Friday night? Then as you walked into the lobby you were greeted by a comforting and friendly face! This is a great and very meaningful way to get involved in this ministry. **Please call, text, or e-mail Shannon to let her know that you're interested in being a greeter at 303.884-9248 or shantan2003@yahoo.com**

**Notes & Prayers** Another way to help new retreatants is to take a moment to send a short note of prayer and comfort for those on retreat and share your insights and how trusting the process leads to healing. **Please send the prayers to Pam at pammysbutterfly@gmail.com**

Also, if you know anyone who wants to attend the retreat then please contact Lori [303-904-7414](tel:303-904-7414) or Edie at [303.775.4108](tel:303.775.4108).

Thank you and God Bless! Rachel's Vineyard Team

### **Hearts Afire: 33 Days to Morning Glory Small Group Retreat**

(A parish-based program from Fr. Michael Gaitley)

Men, women and young adults, if you are looking for a way to be spiritually renewed, develop a deeper relationship with Our Merciful Savior, through Mary, and grow in holiness, join us for **33 Days to Morning Glory Small Group Retreat**. Pick up a flyer as you leave the

church. For more info or to register, call Jan, 970-887-2000, or Becky, 303-419-3507. Registration ends August 15. One-week sessions begin first week in September and end first week in October. Don't miss out on the surest, quickest and easiest way to holiness! Some of our modern day saints had a particular devotion to Mary. What is that about, and why wouldn't we?

### **Religious Education Begins in Granby on Aug 31**

Religious Education begins on Thursday, August 31 with an orientation/registration night beginning at 6:30 p.m. This is a time to register and get acquainted with your teachers and see the textbooks.

If you would like to teach, contact Valerie at 303-815-0055. Teachers must be in good standing with the Church (following the precepts of the Church).

### **Calendar of Events**

- Aug 13 (Sun)**. Rosary Procession after Mass at OLS
- Aug 31 (Thu)**. First night of Religious Education, OLS
- Sep 10 (Sun)**. First day of Religious Education at StP
- Sep 2 (Sat)**. Last Saturday Mass at StB until Nov 18

#### **Mass Collections, August 12 – 13**

St. Anne	\$ 1928
St. Bernard	1987
Our Lady of the Snow	3001
St. Peter	2969
St. Ignatius	468
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10353</b>

#### **Vocations Prayer Calendar**

*Please pray for our seminarians every day.*

**Sat**—Blaise Buches & Cesar Cruz

**Sun**—Anthony Huan & Rommy Goyes

**Mon**—Kevin Gregorek & Jun Pham

**Tue**—Jahn Sainea & Jack Rueschhoff

**Wed**—Daniel Viana & Hernaldo Arrieta

**Thu**—Jason DiRito & Zachary Michalczuk

**Fri**—Increase in vocations to priesthood/religious life

#### **Mass Intentions and Schedule for StA, StB, and OLS**

**KEY:** StA = St. Anne; StB = St. Bernard;

OLS = Our Lady of the Snow

-Sat, Aug 19, StA, 5 p.m., Peter and Kathleen Brownell

-Sat, Aug 19, StB, 5:30 p.m., Len and Cheryl Conley

-Sun, Aug 20, StB, 7 a.m., Parishioners and visitors

-Sun, Aug 20, OLS, 9:30 a.m., +Sandra Stender

#### **Weekday Masses**

-Mon, Aug 21, StA, 8:30 a.m., S./Mary Lou Vecchiarelli

-Tue, Aug 22, OLS, 7:30 a.m., +Sandra Stender

-Wed, Aug 23, StB, 8:30 a.m., Thomas/Georgina Brand

-**Thu, Aug 24, OLS, 8:30 a.m., Dan/Sabrina Machiniak**

-**Fri, Aug 25, OLS, 8:30 a.m., Fr. Michael's intention**

#### **Mass Intentions and Schedule for StP and StI**

**KEY:** StP = St. Peter; StI = St. Ignatius (Walden)

-Sun, Aug 20, StP, 10 a.m., +Aylin Galaviz family healing

-Sun, Aug 20, StI, 1 p.m., Parishioners and visitors